



**IOWA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

**August 25, 2005**

**For immediate release**

- 1. DNR continues northeast Iowa fish kill investigations**
- 2. Producers must account for commercial fertilizer on manure application fields**

## **DNR CONTINUES NORTHEAST IOWA FISH KILL INVESTIGATIONS**

MANCHESTER — The DNR is continuing to investigate a number of northeast Iowa fish kills, including a substantial fish kill on Tete Des Morte Creek in Jackson County.

The fish kill was reported to the DNR Aug. 20. Hundreds of dead fish, including larger, game fish species, were found along a two-mile stretch of stream from St. Donatus to where the creek enters the Mississippi River.

“We still have not identified any sources of contamination that could have caused this fish kill,” said Sue Miller, an environmental specialist with the DNR’s Manchester office. “We will continue to investigate, but we ask that anyone with information regarding the Jackson County fish kill please contact the DNR.”

The DNR also stresses that fish kills should be reported as soon as they’re spotted. Waiting a few days to report the kill allows most of the evidence to wash down the stream, making the source harder to identify, Miller said.

However, a source has been identified for an Aug. 19 fish kill near Garnavillo along the west branch of South Cedar Creek, a trout stream. Manure overflowing from a containment basin of a 165-head dairy operation owned by Carrol Harbaugh led to the fish kill. A total of 2,226 fish were killed, mostly minnows, shiners, dace and chubs. Numerous suckers, darters and stonerollers were also killed, along with one trout.

The DNR is also continuing an investigation along Bear Creek, north of Petersburg. While a source for the fish kill has been identified, DNR fisheries staff continues work on a fish count. The kill occurred when manure from Martin Kruse's dairy operation, located directly along Bear Creek, entered the stream.

Fish kills can be reported 24 hours a day, seven days a week to the DNR's emergency spill line at (515) 281-8694 or to the local county sheriff's department.

**For more information, contact Sue Miller at (563) 927-2640.**

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## **PRODUCERS MUST ACCOUNT FOR COMMERCIAL FERTILIZER ON MANURE APPLICATION FIELDS**

DES MOINES – Starting Aug. 26, confinement producers who need a manure management plan (MMP) must account for both manure and commercial sources of nutrients applied to crop fields.

Livestock and poultry producers must keep records of how much commercial nitrogen and phosphorus has been applied to fields where manure from a confinement is applied. Producers should keep these records with the manure management plan.

If a confinement producer does not own or rent all the land where manure is applied, then the confinement producer must obtain a signed statement from the landowner or renter indicating how much commercial fertilizer will be applied. The signed statements must be available at the confinement site prior to manure application. The statements are required even if no commercial nitrogen or phosphorus will be added.

“It's important for producers to record the total amount of nutrients applied to fields and to obtain statements from landowners or operators that indicate how much additional commercial fertilizer they will apply,” said Cindy Martens who coordinates manure management plans for the DNR. “The whole purpose of this rule is to protect our streams and lakes from excess nutrients that can pollute or degrade our waters.”

She added that the DNR is developing a form which producers can use that will make the process somewhat easier. “The form should be up on our Web site by the end of next week.”

The total nitrogen and phosphorus applied cannot exceed the maximum rates indicated in the MMP regardless of the source of the nutrient, commercial fertilizer or manure.

Records of actual application rates must be kept for three years or the length of the crop rotation, whichever is longer.

Producers can check the DNR Web site at [www.iowadnr.com](http://www.iowadnr.com) under animal feeding operations for more information and form number 542-8167. They can also call their regional DNR field office.

**For more information, contact Cindy Martens at (712) 262-4177.**